

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEVILL 00139 021846Z
ACTION SCS-06

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FM AMCONSUL SEVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2690
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SEVILLE 0139

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, SP (LIMING, WILLIAM SINGLETON)
SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF WILLIAM SINGLETON LIMING

REF: STATE 51005 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REASSURE MR. LIMING THAT THE INVESTIGATION BY SPANISH POLICE AUTHORITIES IS BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED. INDEED, THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS RESPONSE TO RECENT INQUIRY IN SAME VEIN AS REFTEL FROM CONGRESSMAN BUTLER DERRICK OF SOUTH CAROLINA NOTED THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO SOLVE THIS TRAGIC CRIME AND THAT BOTH EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL SEVILLE ARE COOPERATING WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT.

2. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION INVITED TO FOCHE-GISE (SCS) LETTER OF JANUARY 12, 1978 WHICH RAISED OTHER ASPECTS OF CASE WE BELIEVE MAY HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO MRS. LIMING AND HER SON, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE. IT RECENTLY CAME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT SPANISH WEEKLY MAGAZINE "QUE" HAD MADE SOME RATHER SENSATIONALIST SPECULATIONS IN THIS REGARD WHICH IF KNOWN WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DISTURBING TO FAMILY AND ENGENDER URGENT DESIRE TO CLEAR UP CIRCUMSTANCES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IF THAT IS THE CASE THEN MR. LIMING COULD BE APPROPRIATELY INFORMED THAT SUCH SPECULATION IS NOW COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT HIS FATHER IN COURSE OF BEACH STROLL UNWITTINGLY STUMBLED ON DRUG RELATED
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MURDER WHICH INSTANTLY RENDERED HIM VULNERABLE TO SECOND CRIME, HAVING BECOME WITNESS TO THE FIRST. AUTHORITIES INFORM US THEY HAVE YET TO FIND ANY SUSPECTS, DESPITE NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS IN TORREMOLINOS AREA. BALLISTIC TESTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CONDUCTED ON SLUGS AND CARTRIDGES FOUND NEAR MR. LIMING'S BODY IN HOPE SOME LEADS MAY BE UNCOVERED.

3. CURRENT THEORY APPEARS QUITE PLAUSIBLE TO US, SINCE
TORREMOLINOS HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF HIGH CRIME AREA CHARACTERIZED
BY A NUMBER OF MURDERS AS WELL AS BY MUGGINGS, PURSES NATCHINGS, R
AND DRUG RELATED VIOLENCE, MUCH OF WHICH HAS BEEN PERPETRATED
AGAINST FOREIGN TOURIST CLIENTEL (SEE SEVILLE 0109).

4. IN SUM, INVESTIGATION IS ACTIVELY CONTINUING AND WE WILL
REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. FOCHE

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